

a pixel electrode formed on said leveled upper surface, said pixel electrode being electrically connected to said [thin film transistor] semiconductor element through an opening formed in said organic resin film;

a liquid crystal material having ferroelectricity or anti-ferroelectricity and being formed between the first substrate and the second substrate[.];

a leveling film being formed over said second substrate;

an opposed electrode formed over said leveling film and opposed to said pixel electrode with said liquid crystal material interposed therebetween.

51. (Amended) A [television] device according to claim 13, wherein the semiconductor island is a crystalline semiconductor island.

REMARKS

The Examiner's Official Action dated January 28, 2000 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to June 28, 2000. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

Claims 1, 13, 25, 37 and 51 have been amended. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, 41 and 45 are independent. Claims 1-56 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 9-16, 21-28, 33-40 and 45-56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba et al in view of Takeshita et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Applicants initially amended independent claims 1 and 25 to recite a first contact hole in an interlayer film formed apart from a second contact hole in an organic leveling film. This feature has the unexpected advantage of blocking an incident light from an upper portion of the device from entering the second contact hole. If the first and second holes overlap and the light enters an active layer of the device, then the characteristics of the device are degraded. Additionally, it is advantageous to form the second contact hole apart from the first contact hole, because it is possible to improve the reliability of the contact between the pixel electrode and the electrode.

The Office Action asserts that it is conventional to form a passivation layer on the second substrate (opposed substrate) to protect the color filter. However, the cell gap of FLC

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or AFLC displays is narrower than that of a nematic LCD. Accordingly, if inside surfaces of two substrates (a TFT substrate and the opposed substrate) are rough, a light would not pass evenly through the substrates and the FLC/AFLC layer. Therefore, the inside surface flatness of two substrates becomes a material factor for FLC/AFLC displays. Thus, the essence of claims 9-11, 21-23, 33-35 and 45-47 is to flatten the inside surfaces of the two substrates for the FLC/AFLC layer so that light can pass evenly therethrough. None of the applied references or the Office Action's assertion of a "conventional technique" teach or suggest this feature. Applicant's respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

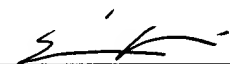
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application into better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be further required in this application, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.



Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 6/28/00

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Attachments

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